

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Most of the waste humans produce ends up in landfills, which are rapidly filling up. Building more landfills can cause pollution, more truck traffic, and take away wildlife habitat. So the National Park Service is working hard to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to the landfill.

You and your family can help by following the "Three R's":



Reducing what you bring to the monument...

Reusing everything that can be taken home and reused, and

Recycling, both at the monument and at home, all possible recyclable materials.

Take this short quiz to see how you have done your "Three R's" part on this trip; use it as a reminder to help you include the "Three R's" in your next outing.

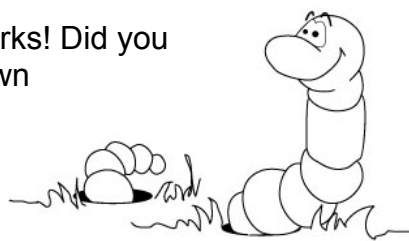
Think about the things you brought especially for this visit to Cabrillo National Monument and threw (or will throw) in the trash can:

- What could have been left at home? _____
- What could have been taken home to be reused? _____
- What throw-away items could have been replaced (before you came to the monument) by reusable or recyclable items? _____

Thanks for practicing the "Three R's". The activities below and on the other side of this page will help you learn more about how nature recycles and how you can help.

Nature Recyclers

There are some pretty cool natural recyclers in our national parks! Did you know that earthworms recycle soil by digesting it, breaking down organic matter, and releasing nutrients? One earthworm can recycle 36 TONS of soil in one year!



Match the following nature recycler with what it recycles.

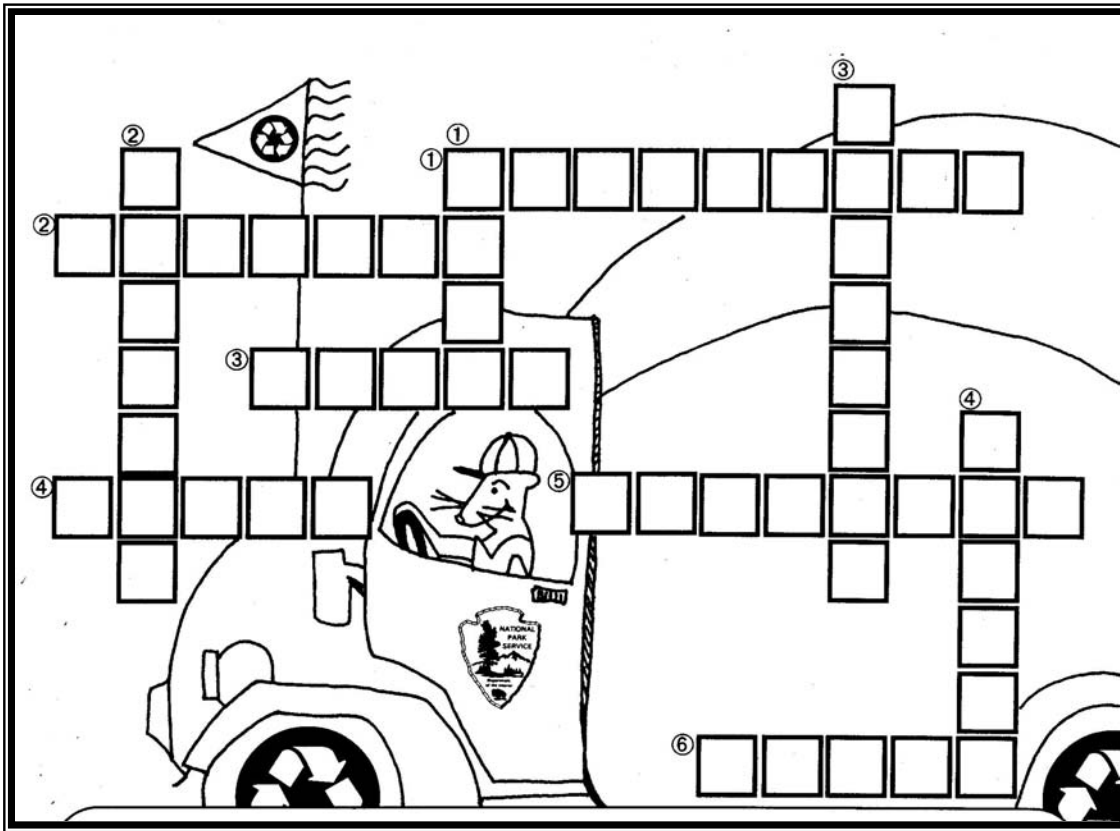
Nature Recycler

1. Fungus
2. Fungus beetle
3. Trees and plants
4. Bird
5. Mouse
6. Earthworm
7. Condor

Recycles:

- a. Grasses, weeds, and other nesting material
- b. Mushrooms (a slimy creature loves to eat and recycle these!)
- c. Dead animal (carcass)
- d. Soil
- e. A dead tree
- f. Air (AAH! Breathe in that fresh, recycled air!)
- g. Gnawed black-tailed deer antlers (Someone's getting their calcium!)

Recycling for Wildlife and Habitat Crossword Puzzle



Word List: **aluminum** **natural** **water** **landfills** **glass**
 pollutes **garbage** **reuse** **less** **reduce**

Across:

1. If we keep throwing away trash, we'll need to build more _____ which can smell and look bad, cause pollution, and take away wildlife habitat.
2. The average American produces about 4 pounds of _____ daily.
3. Recycled _____ requires 50% less water than making new glass.
4. When we recycle newspapers, we save _____ used in production, and that means cleaner air and habitat for birds and fish.
5. Dumping oil and waste into storm water drains instead of recycling _____ our streams and bays.
6. Bring your school lunch and picnic lunches in containers you can wash and _____, instead of throw-away.

Down:

1. Use products with _____ packaging, which means less waste.
2. Using recycled products, instead of making new ones, helps to save our _____ resources.
3. It takes 20 times more energy to produce an _____ can from raw materials than from recycled materials. Recycled cans save energy and money and conserve habitat.
4. _____ the amount of paper you use by writing on both sides.

Hike, explore, picnic, and RECYCLE!

